

From: Elizabeth Sullivan [mailto:ESullivan@townhall.plymouth.ma.us]
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2009 8:41 AM
To: 'Michael.W.Morrissey@state.ma.us'
Cc: 'Phil.Guidice@state.ma.us'; 'Rick.Sullivan@state.ma.us'; 'EDStrawn@aol.com'
Subject: Wind Legislation

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH

Conservation Commission

11 Lincoln Street

Plymouth, MA 02360

June 30, 2009

sent via email

The Honorable Michael W. Morrissey
Room 413D State House Boston, MA
02133

Re: Wind Energy Siting Reform Act (H.B. 3065, S.B. 1504)

Dear Senator Morrissey,

The Plymouth Conservation Commission recognizes that climate change presents a significant environmental threat and that Massachusetts needs to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Wind power is one form of renewable energy that should be part of the solution, long with energy conservation and efficiency and other renewables such as solar.

All energy sources have some environmental impact. For wind power, the location of turbines and the roads and transmission lines serving them significantly affect the degree and type of environmental impacts. Plymouth Conservation Commission believes that the Commonwealth needs to develop and apply wind siting standards that protect important natural resources.

Legislation has been filed to streamline permitting for wind power projects. The Plymouth Conservation Commission supports provisions of the proposed wind siting legislation that would add these needed protections. We do, however, oppose provisions that remove or weaken existing local regulations and permitting authorities, and provisions that make it more difficult or impossible for citizens to appeal permits.

Page 2

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs recently issued a report citing potential development of up to 947 MW of wind power on conservation lands managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Plymouth Conservation Commission opposes any weakening of protections for Article 97 conservation lands. Some sites may be appropriate for wind energy projects, but the majority of Article 97 lands was acquired for a specific public purpose and has important wildlife and ecological values that risk being compromised.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

PLYMOUTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Evelyn Strawn

Evelyn Strawn, Chairwoman

Gerre Hooker, Vice-Chair

Christopher Brink

David Foster

Brooke Monroe

John Scagliarini

Paul Withington

c: Phil.Guidice@state.ma.us
Rick.Sullivan@state.ma.us